

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

NORTHWEST NEWS

Agency Support

In March 2011, PNRA received the first of many requests for information from state and local agencies regarding railroad buildings, bridges and lines in the Pacific Northwest region. Working collaboratively with the RHO collections and other historical institutions, PNRA has provided the requested information, as well as generated revenues from the research and document copies provided. To date we have received fourteen requests, the last eight in the span of sixty days this Fall. They include the following requests:

- The original drawings of King Street Station in Seattle were needed to complete the restoration of the building completed in 1906. The full set of thirty-five architectural drawings produced in 1904 were located in St. Paul and digital copies were provided to the City of Seattle, which is managing the restoration project.
- The Washington State Department of Transportation sought the history and technical drawing of the former Northern Pacific swing bridge crossing the Hoquiam River, at Hoquiam, Washington. NPRHA had the 1906 project file that described the used structure, originally installed at Superior, Wisconsin, and contained the plans for reassembling the truss bridge, building its mounting structures and trestle approaches. In addition, the Fredrickson Collection provided photos showing the bridge in service during the 1940s and 1950s.
- The Washington State Historical Society (WSHS) Research Center in Tacoma received an extensive photo collection from the estate of noted photographer, Emory Roberts in 2012. Mr. Roberts had a preliminary catalog started when he passed away, but the images had not been matched to the records. The head of the Research Center asked PNRA for help with the cataloging of the collection. A grant was written by PNRA to fund the scanning of the collection's negatives and photos which will allow PNRA volunteers to catalog the images from their home computers.
- The executive director of the Skagit County Historical Society sought information on the original Great Northern station at Burlington, Washington, to guide the completion of a replica structure to be used as a local area museum. Project files were provided from the GNRHS collections at PNRA.

Board News

Dan Mathews has been appointed to fill the open Board seat created when Gary Tarbox moved to Executive Director. Dan is an experienced real estate executive who became involved with PNRA a few months after its incorporation. He found and helped negotiate the purchase of the Burien building. Dan brings extensive knowledge of the South King County area to the Board, and his grandfather was the last Master Mechanic on the NP's Tacoma Division.

Staffing Operating Committees

This last quarter, we started to staff PNRA's operating committees which manage much of the work of the Archive. The effort started with recruiting three of the committee chairs who are now enlisting members to serve on the committees. PNRA's by-laws have designated the following six committees:

- Community Outreach – Dan Mathews, acting Chair
- Facilities – Kim Klontz, Chair
- Finance – Brian Kaehler, Chair
- Membership – Bill Rowe, Chair
- Nominating – A continuing director to become Chair 90 days before the Annual meeting.
- Service – Bob Kelly, acting Chair

Go to www.PNRArchive.org to review a description of each committee. We still have slots open on many of these committees. If you would like to serve on one, please email Gary Tarbox at the address below.

Preservation Activities

Approximately 600 dispatcher train sheets have been scanned for the Preservation project funded by the 2011 grant from the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. Train sheets give a snapshot of 24-hours of operations on a specific railroad's subdivision. The work has been slowed by scheduling conflicts at the contractor's facility and by difficulties scanning the very long NP sheets.

The project goal is to scan and catalog 6,000 dispatcher train sheets in the Railroad History Organizations (RHOs) collections at PNRA. PNRA has a wide-format scanner on order and expects to receive it in early 2013. This project will be completed at the Archive after the new scanner has been set up.

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Boeing Mainline Connected

The Boeing Employees Model Railroad Club has completed laying the mainline track in their new layout on the main floor of the PNRA facility. The electrical crew is working to connect the DCC control power to allow trains to run on the mainline. Other members are working on the communities' scenery and their rail connections.

Capital Campaign

PNRA's immediate goal is to start our first Capital Campaign during the first quarter of 2013. We aim to raise funds to pay off our mortgage balance, to fund the completion of the facility improvements needed to make our building into *A World Class Archive*, and to generate endowment funds to sustain the organization as we expand our community outreach activities. PNRA has identified a group of individuals and foundations who will be approached sequentially to make major contributions to the Campaign. We are establishing an advisory board to involve top-level prospective contributors and secure the "lead contributor," who will influence other prospective contributors. We expect it will take two to three years to fully fund PNRA's Capital Campaign.

Help Find Collections

PNRA's mission includes providing suitable space for preserving the operating documents from the railroads of the region. While our Archive facility has not been completed, we can offer a place where people who have collected historic railroad material can feel confident that their donations will be honored and preserved. If you are aware of a collection that will need a new home, please contact us, and we will help the collector or his family make arrangements to donate it to the appropriate RHO(s). Please act before the material is thrown away!!

Brass Model For Sale

PNRA is selling the exquisite HO-scale model of SP&S 315 shown below in an online auction which will **run until 6:00 PM Pacific Time on January 31, 2013**. This model, donated to PNRA by Ed Austin of the North Bank Line to raise funds to further our work of preserving railroad history, has a

retail price of over \$1,500.00. You can review the current bid by going to www.PNRArchive.org. Bids can be mailed to: **PNRA Online Auction, 425 SW 153rd Street, Burien, WA 98166**, or emailed to info@PNRArchive.comcastbiz.net.

The prototype SP&S 315 started its life at Baldwin in 1888 as NP 480 and later, operated as NP 79, one of thirty-two Class F-1, Baldwin Hogs. NP 79 had an "interesting history," which included an eighty-foot dive into a snow bank in 1903 and a massive boiler explosion in 1907, both on the NP's Wallace Branch. NP 79 received a tapered boiler after the explosion. The locomotive was sold to SP&S in 1923 and given the number 315, which it carried in switching service until it was dismantled in 1937.

Opportunities to Help

There are many ways to participate in the important work at PNRA. Cataloging work crews are meeting regularly to prepare the documentation to be scanned and placed on our new mobile shelving. We are looking for additional volunteers to join the crews that work at the following times:

- Wednesday Crew works from 10:00 AM till 4:00 PM each week.
- Thursday Evening Crew from 7:00 to 10:00 PM every other week.
- Friday Crew is planning to start working from 10:00 AM till 4:00 PM every other Friday.

These crew members work on specific tasks ranging from sorting and repacking boxes to entering document descriptions into a computer. New crew members are trained by experienced volunteers and enjoy working with their crew while preserving this important history of the Pacific Northwest region. If you live in the Puget Sound area, please consider joining a crew and helping preserve railroad history. To get started, email us at the address below.

We invite you to become involved in PNRA. If you have questions about PNRA, its member-RHOs or how you can be involved, please contact us at the address information below.

Gary Tarbox,
PNRA Executive Director
2012-Quarter 4

